(d) As per census 2001, rural sanitation coverage is only 21.91% in the country.

(e) Government has taken various initiatives to increase rural sanitation coverage, which include scaling up TSC projects in all districts of the country, increased budgetary allocation for TSC, launching of incentive-cum-reward scheme, Nirmal Gram Puraskar for Panchayati Raj Institutions, awareness generation activities and capacity development of different stakeholders etc.

Upliftment of Rural Areas

2397. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's proposed schemes for uplifitment of rural India have failed to achieve the target due to inadequate mechanism of dissemination of information amongst the rural population;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose or have taken to give due publicity of the schemes in the rural areas of the country;

(c) the system for monitoring the progress of the implementation of such scheme; and

(d) as large part of rural India is out of reach of print/electronic media, whether Government will involve the elected public representatives for proper implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of schemes through State Govemments/UT Administrations for upliftment of the rural poor in the country. These schemes are reviewed through various monitoring mechanism regularly and according to the Progress Reports received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the performance of these schemes has been found to be satisfactory. In view of the magnitude of disseminating information to a vast population of rural poor and of ensuring participation of the society in rural development, Information, Education and Communication activities have been substantially scaled up through print media, electronic media and

out door publicity. The Ministry is also bringing out a monthly Newsletter 'Gramin Bharat' in order to keep the Panchayti Raj Institution's informed about the various programmes.

(c) The Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of Monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, National Level Monitors, Quick Evaluation Studies, Impact Assessment Studies for improving the quality of work and adherence of implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines. Besides, the State have been advised to adopt a four-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency (iii) People's Partnership and (iv) accountability.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has assigned a central role to the elected representatives at all levels both in implementation and monitoring of the schemes.

Reforms in Rural drinking Water Supply Sector

2398. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts where Union Government has started reforms in rural drinking water supply, State-wise;

(b) the number of drinking water schemes initiated during the Ninth plan period and the number of villages benefited under the scheme during the same period; and

(c) the target set for Tenth Plan to include more villages alongwith the progress made so far, the financial assistance provided to each State under different water schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Since water is a State subject, the responsibility for providing drinking water to the rural habitations is of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the States in this regard by providing financial assistance to the States under the Centrally